

511 – Forage Harvest Management

State Grassland Specialist
Planning Unit: Acre
Reporting Unit: Acre

ARKANSAS FACT SHEET

October, 2010

PRACTICE DEFINITION

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage

PRACTICE PURPOSE

- Optimize yield and quality of forage at the desired levels
- Promote vigorous plant re-growth
- Manage for the desired species composition
- Use forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool
- Control insects, diseases and weeds
- Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat

PICTURE

PICTURE

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all land uses where machine harvested forage crops are grown.

Forage will be harvested at a frequency and height that optimizes the desired forage stand, plant community, and stand life. Follow State Cooperative Extension Service (CES) recommendations for forage harvest based on stage of maturity, moisture content, length of cut, stubble height and harvest interval. The following criteria must be met:

Stage of Maturity. Harvest forage at the stage of maturity that provides the desired quality and quantity without compromising plant vigor and stand longevity.

This document is not all inclusive and should not be considered as the final rule for implementation. The Conservation Practice Standard, Practice Specification and AR Amendment 19 are the official guidance documents for implementation of this practice.

PRACTICE PAYMENT SCENARIOS

October, 2010

Forage Harvest Management for Phosphorus Removal Acre \$50.89

Harvesting forages to remove excess phosphorus from pastures/hay fields. Forage must be removed through hay or green chop. Fields cannot be grazed or hay fed on the acreage. Fields that have a phosphorus loading in excess of 500 lbs of P/acre qualify for funding. This is a 3-yr. program with funding paid each year. Phosphorus removal is typically done on 20 acre pastures/hay fields.

Forage Harvest Mgmt Acre \$17.88

Forage harvest management is typically done in Arkansas on 20 acre pastures/hay fields. Harvesting forages to optimize forage growth by restoring a grazed pasture to phase II of the growth curve. Forage may be removed through hay, green chop or grazing wilted forage. The grazing program must have at least twice weekly rotation. Fescue needs to be clipped after mid-May as this will keep it vegetative the remainder of the year. Bermuda grass should be harvested or clipped every 30 days during the grazing season

